

Amendments to the Specification

Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert:

This application is a Rule 1.53(b) Continuation of PCT/JP02/11377 filed October 31,
2002.

Page 19, please replace Table 1 with the following rewritten Table 1:

Table 1

	Flow rate of acrylic acid in top of column (kg/h)	Flow rate of bottoms (kg/h)	Acrylic acid in bottom of column		Loss from top of column (%)	B/A
			Concentration (wt%)	Flow rate (kg/h)		
Example 1	12	5110	61.8	3158	0.4	1.06
Example 2	60	4600	67.5	3105	1.9	1.15
Comparative Example 1	172	4070	73.6	2995	5.4	1.26
Comparative Example 2	140	4090	74.4	3043	4.4	1.27
Example 3	16	4620	68.3	3155	0.5	1.06
Comparative Example 3	169	3700	81.3	3008	5.3	1.26
Example 4	9	5150	61.8	3183	0.3	1.06
Comparative Example 4	121	4220	73.7	3110	3.8	1.26
Example 5	28	5000	63.0	3150	0.9	1.08
Comparative Example 5	137	4150	73.8	3066	4.3	1.26

Page 20, line 1-9, please rewrite as follows:

The ~~amount~~ flow rate of acrylic acid in the bottom of the column is equal to [the flow rate of the liquid in the bottom of the column] x [the concentration of acrylic acid in the bottom of the column]; and

the loss from the top of the column is equal to [the flow rate of acrylic acid in the top of the column] / [(the flow rate of acrylic acid in the top of the column) + (the flow rate of acrylic acid in the bottom of the column)] x 100(%).